

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

PCT

NOTIFICATION CONCERNING
TRANSMITTAL OF COPY OF INTERNATIONAL
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(CHAPTER I OF THE PATENT COOPERATION
TREATY)
(PCT Rule 44bis.1(c))

Date of mailing (day/month/year)
05 October 2006 (05.10.2006)

To:

DEGUSSA AG
Intellectual Property Management
Patente und Marken
Standort Hanau
Postfach 13 45
63403 Hanau
ALLEMAGNE

Eingang bei
Intellectual Property
Management

12. Okt. 2006

Standort Wolfgang

Applicant's or agent's file reference
040055 AM

IMPORTANT NOTICE

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/002933

International filing date (day/month/year)
18 March 2005 (18.03.2005)

Priority date (day/month/year)
22 March 2004 (22.03.2004)

Applicant

DEGUSSA AG et al

The International Bureau transmits herewith a copy of the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)



H00032147Y

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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 040055 AM	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/EP2005/002933	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 18 March 2005 (18.03.2005)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22 March 2004 (22.03.2004)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant DEGUSSA AG			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I | Basis of the report |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. II | Priority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. III | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV | Lack of unity of invention |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VI | Certain documents cited |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VII | Certain defects in the international application |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application |

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

	Date of issuance of this report 26 September 2006 (26.09.2006)
The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No. +41 22 338 82 70	Authorized officer Ellen Moyse e-mail: pt05@wipo.int

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

REC'D 13 JUN 2005

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To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/002933

International filing date (day/month/year)
18.03.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
22.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
C12P13/04

Applicant
DEGUSSA AG

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- Box No. II Priority
- Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, Inventive step and Industrial applicability
- Box No. IV Lack of unity of Invention
- Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- Box No. VII Certain defects in the International application
- Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for International preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/002933

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - a sequence listing
 - table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - in written format
 - in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - contained in the international application as filed.
 - filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/002933

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or
industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-6
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/002933

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: Galkin et al., 1997, Applied and Environmental Microbiology, 63(12): 4651-4656.

Novelty

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 and shows (abstract, page 4652, right-hand column, last paragraph - page 4653, right-hand column, 3rd paragraph; page 4655, right-hand column, 2nd-6th paragraphs) the production of optically active amino acids (L-leucine, L-alanine, L-phenylalanine and L-tyrosine) by using a whole-cell-catalyst which express the L-amino acid dehydrogenase (LeuDh) and formate dehydrogenase (FDH) from alpha-ketoacids and ammonium formate with only and intracellular pool of NAD⁺ for the regeneration of NADH.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known D1 in that in the present application, the addition of the substrate to the synthesis reaction is metered such that the stationary concentration of 2-ketocarboxylic acid is less than 500 mM and the external addition of cofactor, based in the total input of the substrate, corresponds to > 0.0001 equivalents.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

Inventive step

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as a process for preparing optically active L-amino acids.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reasons:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/002933

The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1 (see above), and its subject-matter differs from claim 1 in that the substrate is added to the synthesis reaction employing fed batch metering which makes the stationary concentration of the substrate to be less than 500 mM and permits the reduction in external addition of cofactor (to >0.0001 equivalents per total input of substrate or even in absence of cofactor in the reaction). The process of the present application is more efficient than prior art processes since it obtains a relatively high total turnover quantities of L-amino acids per reaction volumes and saves in cofactor costs, thus increasing the economy of the process.

Remarks

The reference of D1 should be corrected in the description, page 4, line 22. (The author is Galkin et al., and not Soda et al.,)